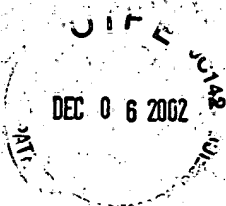


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

[Handwritten signature]
PATENT

Applicant : Robert F. Zepf

Appl. No. : 09/846,777

Filed : May 1, 2001

For : POLYMER MEMBRANE
MESHES

Examiner : Krishnan S. Menon

) Group Art Unit 1723

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and
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) December 2, 2002

) (Date)

) *[Signature]*
) Jeffrey A. Birchak, Reg. No. 46,200

AMENDMENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 3, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 20-68.

Please amend Claims 1-5, 15, and 17-19 as follows:

1. (Amended) A polymer membrane mesh, the membrane mesh comprising a first surface having first surface pores, a second surface having second surface pores, and a support structure between the first surface and the second surface, the support structure having a reticular network of flow channels connecting the pores of the first surface with the pores of the second surface, wherein the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface have an average pore diameter of greater than about 50 μ m.